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EXTRACTS FROM THE STATION REPORTS FOR 1917-1918.

Makkovik.

WHEN we consider how easy our lot is here at a time when all over the world there is care and distress, we cannot do otherwise than humbly thank and praise God. True, last autumn it had the appearance as if there was going to be a hard winter for some of our people here, since the cod-fishery had been poor at some of the fishing-stations, and some of our people, owing to the increase in the price of foodstuffs, had not been able to supply themselves with the needful for the approaching winter. But when the winter set in it brought with it so many fur-bearing animals that everybody's needs were supplied. Higher prices, too, were again paid for the skins, with the result that some of our people had splendid incomes for the winter. Truly,

our God can help us as surely in hard times as in easy ones, and this has been acknowledged by many; and it is our hope and prayer that the experiences of this present time may bring forth spiritual fruits in the life of our congregation.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that 5 young persons—3 young married Eskimo women and 2 Settler youths—were added to the Church by confirmation. They all manifested an earnest desire for this, and it was evident that the Spirit of God was at work in their hearts.

Then, too, the Day-school was again well patronized. Mrs. Ellen Anderson once more, as in the last two years, during the past winter attended to the cooking and the washing for the children, free of charge. It was also a great help to us that her husband, Mr. William Anderson, lived for the most part in the school-house, where he helped the youngsters in the evenings to learn their lessons, and was, especially to the boys, like a father. Nay, more than that. We had long felt that there was something wanting; for, whereas, on free Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, the girls exercised themselves in sewing and knitting, there was no similar useful occupation for the boys. We thought of teaching them carpentry, but we had no tools. Mrs. Dailey, whose name has occurred in previous reports, last summer gave us the needful money for the purchase of the requisite tools. Whereupon Mr. W. Anderson taught the older boys the use of the saw, the plane, and other tools. Here in this country, where there is no artisan class, this kind of thing is most useful—and for the children it makes a pleasant change in the curriculum.

The health of our people was, speaking generally, good throughout the year. Our congregation suffered a very special loss through the death of the afore-mentioned Mr. W. Anderson. At the end of last May he was taken ill with appendicitis, to which was added inflammation of the bowels, and in less than a fortnight he was a corpse. He died the death of a true believer, and has left a good testimony behind. He will be much missed, not only in his own family circle, but also in church and school. May the Lord be pleased to raise up for us other like-minded "Helpers."

B. LENZ.

Hopedale.

It seems a very long stretch to refer back to July, 1917, yet for a review of the work during the ship's year that has just ended we must go back that far.

Early Summer Doings.

The early days of July are usually a right busy time in our little community, for our Eskimoes are "fitting out" for the cod-fishery and transporting their worldly goods to their summer

residences at Uviluktôk or elsewhere. It is an anxious time for them, for while they are incurring considerable expense for repairing, repainting, and rigging their boats, and getting the necessary provisions and gear for the coming three or four months, they are merely building on the hope that the cod-fishery will be a success. A successful fishery, enabling them to square accounts at the store and end the summer with a clean sheet, means freedom from anxiety regarding the necessities of life till the following summer; whereas a poor fishery leaves them with a large adverse balance and the prospect of being informed that new debts cannot be contracted till the old ones are wiped out. If our people had a regular weekly income, the fear of hard times and short commons would not loom so large in their minds, but the dreadful uncertainty of being able to make a living from their hunting and trapping fills them with anxiety regarding the replenishing of the flour-barrel and the molasses keg. Seals may be scarce or the weather unpropitious for hunting, and foxes may find a sufficiency of mice and partridges, and will therefore not be lured by the bait round the traps. One good silver fox caught during the winter would set the trapper on his legs again; but will the needy man be fortunate enough to trap a silver fox? So, early in July, our trappers, now turned fishermen, put all their energy, hope, and expectation into the cod-fishery, and sally forth, to be either elated with their success or cast down by their failure.

That we get somewhat self-centred during these days is scarcely to be wondered at. For months past we have heard nothing of or from the outside world, as communication has not yet opened. The one fact we are conscious of is that we are alive and engaged in our usual occupations, and that we must be up and doing, preparing for the future, whether the world be at peace or at war. We may be said to be living in a state of blissful ignorance, undisturbed by the strifes of men and nations; yet beneath all there is a burning desire to know what course events are taking in the world.

At last, on July 9th [1917—Ed.], our anxiety was relieved by the arrival of the first mail-steamer for the summer. This brought us a large amount of mail matter which had been accumulating since the previous November.

On July 23rd, two colleagues, Messrs. Asboe and MacLeavy, arrived from the north in the Okak motor-boat, and this gave us an opportunity of hearing from some of the northern stations. Their eagerness to obtain home news had induced them to undertake this long journey. Our own ship, the *Harmony*, always the most longed-for and most welcome visitor, came in on August 8th and brought us news and supplies. What our stations on the coast would do without the good old ship it is not easy to conjecture. On her departure for the north the following day, our storekeeper, Br. Bohlmann, accompanied her to attend a storekeepers' conference to be held at one of the northern stations.

Uviluktók.

During the summer I paid two or three visits to the twenty-miles distant island of Uviluktók, where most of the Eskimoes are stationed for the cod-fishery. Our own motor-boat engine being in a hopeless state of collapse, some of the natives very kindly placed their motor-boats and their services at our disposal for the journeys. The little church at Uviluktók; built by the Eskimoes some years ago, is regularly used during the fishing season, the native helpers mostly occupying the rostrum; but all are very pleased to see the missionary arrive to conduct the Sunday services. On one occasion we celebrated the Holy Communion there. Week-night services are not usually held, as the fishing-boats are often not home till late in the evening, and the catch of fish has to be split, cleaned, and salted while it is still fresh.

Garden Produce.

The weather having been propitious during the summer, we were able to gather an exceptionally heavy crop of swedes, turnips, carrots, and various varieties of cabbage from our small garden. Not only had we an ample supply for the coming winter, but we were also able to dispose of about £6 worth to the Eskimoes. Although they have no leaning towards agriculture, the natives are very partial to turnips, either raw or boiled. The summer had been favourable to them too, as they had been able to gather a bounteous harvest from the sea. High prices being paid for dried salt cod, the majority of our people were well able to close their accounts—some even had a good surplus to expend for necessities for the coming winter.

Furs.

About the middle of October the furring season opens, and the natives again enjoy a complete change of occupation. Seals begin to work south, too, and the seal-hunters must be on the look-out to take advantage of every opportunity the weather offers for hunting, for not only are the blubber and meat needful for food for man and dog, the skins too are very essential, as they provide almost the only footgear used in this country.

During the furring season, some of the trappers made very respectable catches, and as competition was keen, fur-buyers plentiful, and high prices offered for good skins, dollars were abundant. A man feels proud, and is liable to feel very independent, when he carries home a good fox, which may be worth anything from £50—£80 sterling. There is no need for him to cringe now, but he may try to force a stiff bargain. But such an amount is not always adequate to satisfy the manifold wants of a household—there are so many ways for the money to go, and, just now, all goods are of course very expensive. One would not care to assert that the money is always wisely used. Too often the motto seems to be: "Hard times are sure to come again sooner or later; let's have a flare-up and enjoy life while

we have the means at our disposal." Many of our people have not yet learned the true value of money. "Easy come, easy go," and there are few regrets afterwards.

Church Work.

As has been often stated in the station reports, the winter season, *i.e.*, from Christmas till Easter, is *the* time for church and school work, and the missionary has to work hard during that time. In one sense it is good the season is not more extensive, otherwise a new staff of workers would soon be required. Week-night services, church festivals, confirmation classes, &c., all make work, and the Passion Week and Easter services are usually duplicate, first in Eskimo, then in English. But we are not left without encouraging evidence that the Lord's blessing attends our labours, and that souls are being nourished by the spiritual food provided. We are not all saints here, but we have the firm conviction that there are some who earnestly and sincerely desire and endeavour to do the will of God and to live to the glory of His name. Some are rejoicing Christians, because they *know* they have passed from death unto life; some, not having yet arrived at the full assurance of salvation, or perhaps fearing they might be presumptuous if they claimed to have experienced the new birth, are, without doubt, firm believers in the cleansing blood and atoning death of Jesus Christ, and, though lacking the depth of joy which is the portion of the child of God, still find untold comfort in the truth that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin; and some, realising their sinfulness and unworthiness, *hope* the Lord will have mercy on them and let them creep into the kingdom of heaven sooner or later. Among a certain few card-playing has taken a firm hold and is the cause of much indifference to spiritual things, but one's pleadings and warnings seem ineffectual in overcoming the fascination of the cards. Deliverance from this bondage will only be effected by the direct work of the Holy Spirit on the hearts.

"Diaspora" and School Work.

The amount of direct missionary work we are able to accomplish among the scattered Eskimo and settler members of our congregation is, alas! far too small, and one is apt to think that in some cases the state of heart and manner of life of some of the dwellers in the lonely bays are anything but satisfactory from a spiritual standpoint. If at all possible, we visit all twice during the winter and hold a service at each house. This means travelling, in all, about 700 miles at the rate of from two to five miles per hour, according to the state of the "going" and the quality of the dog team. There is, of course, the additional opportunity for members to attend the church services, when they come to the station. But one notices a certain deplorable slackness in this respect on the part of some, a slackness which can only spring from the root of indifference. We are glad to

be able to have the settler children with us for a few weeks during the winter for school, and our aim is not only to give them instruction in the three "R's," but to lay a foundation of spiritual truth in their young hearts that shall be valuable to them in after-life. Of the success of this work we cannot at present judge, but we trust the fruits will be visible in years to come.

Frozen to Death.

In the month of February the whole congregation was much grieved on the reception of the news that one of our young men had been found frozen to death. He was a strong, hardy young fellow, apparently in the best of health and able to endure the hardships of a trapper's life. Feeling confident of his ability to undertake a long day's walk on snowshoes, he had gone to a distant camp to fetch a number of marten traps, and took what he considered an ample supply of food for the return journey. Dirty weather came on, and he failed to reach home at the expected time. As soon as the weather permitted three men started out to look for him, and found him frozen stiff, face downwards, on the snow. Whether he had drunk too much cold water while heated, or what had happened to him, we cannot say. His death is a loss, as young men, the hope of the race, are scarce.

Eleven deaths have occurred in the congregation during the year under review—all, with one exception, children and young people, though not all pure-blooded Eskimoes. One cannot help wondering sometimes whether the Eskimoes are hastening to extinction.

Nain.

Outwardly, our people have fared well during the past ship year; indeed, had not the price of all necessaries of life risen more and more, even those who are not very expert in hunting, fishing, &c., would not have lacked the needful.

Economic Conditions.

Like its predecessor, the summer of last year came in very early, and was remarkable for unusual warmth and dryness. Already in the middle of July our water supply gave out, and we were obliged to send people across to the other side of the bay to fetch water by boat. But in the sea there was no lack of fish. Trout was caught in paying quantities and the cod-fish came in early. Those of our people who are in better circumstances, and who own cod-traps for fishing, had a rich harvest of fish. But those also who are obliged to catch the fish one by one by means of the rod did not ply their tedious craft in vain. When the month of October arrived and the dried fish was handed in at the store, many of our people not only had enough

wherewith to balance their accounts, but were able with what was over to purchase new clothes as well as supplies for the first part of the winter. True, in the case of the majority—viz., those doing business in a small way—we were thankful when they just managed to pay off their debts in the store. Unfortunately, there are still those among our people who, even in the best of fishing seasons, cannot pay their way—nor is this always the result of want of diligence. Some do not possess the most necessary things, such as boats and tents, wherewith to engage in fishing operations at places where they are likely to meet with success. The days seem to have gone by when it was possible to catch fish in the immediate vicinity of the station. Only near the outlying islands has the catch of fish proved remunerative of late years; and it is there that the better-situated people have again carried on their fishing operations during the past summer.

The seal-catch in the autumn was, unfortunately, very small. Again we had very mild weather, with the result that the sea did not freeze over until shortly before Christmas. Nor were the continuous north winds favourable either for seal-hunting or for the seal-catch by means of nets—indeed, many nets were lost through the ice which the wind drove into the fishing-places. Still, the Lord provided for the wants of our people in other ways. Foxes turned up in specially large numbers; but at first they were not easy to catch, as mice were so plentiful. But some particularly clever huntsmen succeeded in catching a sufficient number to make it pay, and in February and March, when a thick coat of ice covered the ground and the foxes found it most difficult to appease their hunger with mice, they were pretty frequently attracted by the bait in the traps. Thus there was no lack of the needful, generally speaking, throughout the whole of the winter. All the same, quite a number of old and infirm persons had to be supported out of the Poor's Fund.

The past winter was at first unusually mild. Indeed, during the whole of the month of January it was so warm that in many places the ice thawed away entirely and travelling on it was dangerous. However, February and March made up for the deficiencies of the preceding months, and the following months of spring were uncommonly cold.

Owing probably in part to this abnormal state of the weather, all kinds of sicknesses made their appearance, not only here at Nain itself, but also at all the out-stations. Rheumatism in the joints and muscles of the body troubled a good many of our people, and one blooming young girl of thirteen years of age fell a victim to the first-named complaint.

Nathaniel Illiniartitzijok.

Our old chapel servant, Nathaniel Illiniartitzijok, who was for many years a valued schoolmaster, was taken ill in the autumn of last year, and became so much worse as time wore on that not

only he, but also we, thought that his end was approaching. It was most edifying to visit him in his sickness. A profound sense of sinfulness and utter unworthiness, which is not common among our Eskimoes, made it difficult for him to appropriate to himself by faith the grace of God in Christ Jesus. For a long time he had to contend with doubts, whereas, generally speaking, an Eskimo finds it remarkably easy to believe in the complete forgiveness of his sins. All the more pleasing was it to observe in Nathaniel's case how his doubts gradually disappeared and finally the peace of God transfigured his whole face. Gladly would he at this stage have gone home to his eternal rest, but it was not the Lord's will that it should be so. Slowly he began to mend, and after many up and downs he has now progressed so far that he can undertake various little jobs. We missed him sadly in his church work and in the keeping of meetings in church throughout the winter. We were therefore glad to have Philip Hunter to put in his place.

Statistics.

The close of the year revealed to us once more in unmistakable terms the sad fact that our people are dying out. Ten births only to balance eleven deaths, and that notwithstanding the fact that, in 1917, we were preserved from severe epidemics of a general nature. Owing to a specially large number of withdrawals, the total decrease amounted to 23; with the result that at the beginning of 1918 our membership came to 243. Slowly, but irresistibly, things are going downhill in this respect with the Eskimo race, and human wisdom seeks in vain by some means or other to stay the downward course of events. All the more gladdened are we when individual members of this dying race find the way to life eternal. It has again during the past year been our aim and endeavour to bring them all to that goal. The good seed of the gospel has been scattered abroad—and not in vain; of this we think we can be sure. True, there has been but little evidence outwardly of success—indeed, we cannot even cite any particularly pleasing instances; and yet there are signs visible of growth in the spiritual life. For example, we noticed an increased willingness to give—for not only the gifts and collections for church purposes, but also those for our Foreign Missions in general, have increased satisfactorily. Then, too, five persons expressed the wish to be admitted to the Holy Communion, and were confirmed on Palm Sunday. They all seemed to be earnestly desirous of surrendering themselves to the Saviour and of fighting against sin. Finally, there is a marked decrease in the number of cases of gross sin. Dancing and card-playing have not caused us as much trouble as in previous years.

P. HETTASCH,
H. SIMON.

Okak.

Our congregation used until recently to be numerically the strongest on the Coast; but it is not that now any more. We closed the year with only 263 members on the roll.

On Palm Sunday 12 candidates were confirmed. Among these there were some very old persons. One woman, who was baptized in the year 1909, has only now decided to become a full member of the Church. She has repeatedly wished to take this step, but there has always been something to prevent her. She was an old "doctor," and, as she openly confessed, was often still plagued by the evil spirits. She did not want to have anything more to do with them, but could not obtain complete rest from them. However, it was her desire to belong to the Lord Jesus altogether and not to be troubled by temptations of this kind. The majority of those who were confirmed were young people, some of whom were not quite 17 years of age. They were all apparently in earnest.

The Spirit of God has been working in the hearts of many of our people. The Helpers and the Church Committee, too, have assisted us faithfully in our endeavours to stem the tide of sin in our midst.

Our people were greatly favoured in their hunting and fishing operations during the past summer and autumn. The cod-fishery was good, and the seal-catch fairly plentiful. Cold weather did not set in for a long time, and many of our people were thereby prevented from returning to the station in time for Christmas. All through January we had mild, rainy weather. But in February colder weather set in, and it eventually became very severe. During the months of February and March the thermometer stood mostly at 30°-38° Celsius *below zero* (=22°-36° below freezing point, Fahr.), and at the same time the wind blew furiously nearly all the time, and one scarcely knew how to keep the rooms in the house warm. In May, when one generally expects to get warmer weather, it continued cold. In June, too, there were but few warm days with sunshine, and at nights we had severe frosts. On June 14th we had a heavy snowstorm, bad enough for March. Now we are at the end of June (1918), and there is but little green to be seen, either grass or shrub.

Our people have again shot a good many reindeer, which is for them and for us a matter for thanksgiving. There have also been a good many foxes, and more of these animals have been shot or caught than has been the case for ten years. There were a great many hares and ptarmigan, too. Outside at the edge of the ice our people are also getting a nice lot of seals—also a few white whales and walruses have been caught. Last year we had "open," *i.e.*, ice-free, water on June 15th. At the same time this year it was quite wintry still.

S. WALDMANN.

Hebron.

In the life of our people on this Coast, who still live more or less from hand to mouth, hunting and fishing play a great part. Accordingly we will say a few words about these things first.

The Lord has been very good in this respect to those under our charge during the past ship year. Although in the autumn of last year it frequently looked as if the sea were going to freeze over before the seals began their tour of migration, the ocean swell, storms, and repeated spells of mild weather kept the water "open" for a length of time, with the result that the seal-catch at this station was a very good one, although not quite as plentiful as the year before. Foxes, too, were more numerous than usual. Many of these fur-bearing animals were killed, and the Eskimoes obtained good prices for the skins, so much so that there was no need for them to restrict themselves, in spite of the high prices charged for the goods in the stores. Nor was there any scarcity of hares or ptarmigan, so that there was never any lack of fresh meat, especially as later on in the winter and spring reindeer were shot. Thus throughout the whole of the year the Giver of all good gifts has provided amply for our people, and, with the exception of a few sick, aged, and helpless folk, no one has had cause to complain of want; and during the whole of the year there was no general epidemic of sickness, for which we thank and praise the Lord.

Non-resident Members.

Turning our attention next to the congregation itself, we have to remark that Hebron differs from the other congregations on the Coast in that it has a large number of non-resident members. These are not, as in the case of Nain, English settlers only, but chiefly Eskimoes, to whom must certainly be added a few English settler families. South of the station these non-resident members live at Napartok Bay (eight families of them), and in the North at Saeglek Bay (ten families), and at Old Ramah (four families). In this way more than one-third of the whole congregation live away from the station. And yet, as long as the sledge track was good, there was during the winter months plenty of communication between them and the station. Oftentimes one or other of the non-resident families would visit the station for a length of time and enjoy the services of the church; and for the Church Festivals almost all of them are in the habit of coming here. At Easter we had large attendances at the services, since in addition to our own members we had visitors from Okak and from Killinek. We trust that many of these latter derived permanent benefit from the services. Not until after Easter was the resident minister able to visit the members at Napartok and Saeglek.

Attendance and Attention in Church.

The usual services of the church were conducted uninterruptedly throughout the year. Each of the local "Helpers" preached

one sermon during the winter, and they also took part in the other services of the sanctuary. The attendance at church was good, notwithstanding the fact that frequently the weather was anything but propitious. Very pleasing, too, is the devout attention, more especially of the adults, in church. Of course, we do not pretend to be able to see into the hearts of our people. Our prayer is that these may be opened by the Spirit of God and made willing to receive the Word preached, so that in the case of many of them the hearing of the Word may result in a keeping of it in their hearts and their benefiting thereby.

Pastoral Work.

In private conversation I sought to get into touch with the individual church members, but it is not possible to get to know them properly during the first winter one spends amongst them. Quite naturally, people do not open their hearts as readily to one who is a stranger as to one whom they have known for years. For this reason I will not venture to express an opinion regarding the spiritual life of the congregation thus early in my ministry among them. It is quite true to say that in connection with these pastoral talks one heard tell of a good deal of sin; but almost invariably these confessions were made under a sense of a heavy load and with the earnest desire to be freed from the weight of it. No one with whom we have spoken has at any time said anything that could make us think that he or she deliberately wanted to continue to live a life of sin. On the contrary, from statements made by some of the men it was evident that they were struggling to be free from the bonds of the flesh, but for the time being in vain, as they were fighting in their own strength. It was a joy to us to point such souls to Him who alone can make them free. May they be induced to turn to Him in faith and in Him to find help and victory. Some of the older men and women speak about their spiritual life in such a way that one can only wish for many of the younger ones to pass through the same experiences. It is not safe to draw conclusions regarding the spiritual life of a congregation from outward actions. Still, we welcomed it as a good sign, firstly, that during the past winter the church collections were better than in previous years, and then that there was a great demand for books. Early in January already of the present year the stock of Text-books was sold out, whereas formerly there were generally some left over.

Confirmation and Baptisms.

On Palm Sunday six persons were confirmed (four men and two women). Two of the men were 40 years of age. Having been awakened from a life of sin and indifference, it was now their sincere desire to give themselves to Him who had shed His blood for them, and to become partakers of His grace through the medium of the Sacrament.

At Easter we had the pleasure of receiving into the Church, after due preparation, by the rite of baptism two brothers, Putorok and Silligarsuk by name, who have both married Christian women, and of whom the one has lived at Hebron for some time, whilst the other has only been here a year. We are convinced that it was the earnest desire of them both to relinquish their heathenish ways, and by faith to appropriate to themselves that salvation which Jesus has procured for lost mankind. It was a special festival joy for them and for our whole congregation when, on Easter Monday, these two young men were baptised and at the same time the two couples were married according to the rites of the Christian Church.

Day-school Work.

The Day-school was divided during the whole of the winter into two classes, the smaller of which was taught by an Eskimo woman. Apparently the children attended school gladly, and did their best to fulfil their tasks; and we were, speaking generally, pleased with the results of the examination which was held at Easter. But we are struck with the fact that the local children are much less accustomed to think over what they read and hear in class than is the case at Nain.

A. MARTIN.

Killinek.

Climatic Conditions.

Another year has passed over the work carried on here, and now we must lay down tools of various kinds, to take up the pen for a brief résumé of events during the above-mentioned period. At present there is no prospect of boats or ships—patrol, mail, or mission—coming to this place, as it is still practically winter. Ice everywhere as far as the eye can see, and this state of the sea is likely to continue for a long time to come. Early in July, 1917, our harbour was free from ice, and boats could come and go from the Atlantic side and from the Canadian side. In the middle of the month a motor-boat with Newfoundland fishermen from the South, and a motor-boat from the West (Chimo), with H.B.C. men, visited us. In August the ice-breaker *Nascopie*, an H.B.C. supply ship, arrived. On board was the Rev. E. J. Peck, on his way to visit his old parishioners, the Eskimoes, in Baffin's Land. With him, ashore, we spent a pleasant hour over a cup of tea; next morning he left with the vessel. On August 22nd, unexpectedly and a month earlier than usual, the *Harmony* arrived, finding us unprepared with letters, &c.; on board were Br. Bohlmann and a Mrs. Dailey. The ship left us again on the 29th. The visitors and workers, on the ship and ashore, did not have a pleasant time, as it was

rainy and stormy every day. Killinek Island has a climate somewhat akin to the climate of Iceland: it does not rain every day here, because on some days it snows! Since July 1st, 1917, to June 30th, 1918, we have had 94 days with more or less sunshine and wind, and only 271 dirty, damp, snowy, cold, and stormy days. The Eskimoes here have, and only speak of, two seasons, winter and spring. The spring of 1917 we had in July and a portion of August, and since then winter. For the year 1918, spring has not yet begun. The climatic conditions here operate unfavourably and depressingly upon aging Europeans, but the love of our people for church and store does not suffer through the cold, stormy, or wet weather.

Large Congregations.

Last July our Eskimoes returned from the Atlantic side of the Island to the station for sealing, &c. A good many families of the H.B.C. Eskimoes (some of them belonging to the Rev. Stewart's flock) were also on and near our Island during August and September. In consequence, we had extra good congregations at the services. All through the year attendance at church has been good. On July 29th we kept our Congregation Festival. We closed the day with Holy Communion, at which 19 Eskimoes were present. All our Festivals, &c., have been well attended and appreciated. At Christmas we had our little church packed, extra benches being requisitioned to seat the people: more than 120 were present. On Christmas Eve biscuits, tea, candles, and old Christmas cards were distributed, and some time before the poor had gifts of clothing given to them. On the last day of the year we had Sports on the ice, Helpers' Lovefeast, Memorabilia, and Watch Night service, with a good congregation in spite of the cold. At Christmas and on other occasions our choir rendered suitable words and music in a creditable manner.

The 6th of January saw us holding our Foreign Mission services. Interest and attendance were good, and we had again to use extra benches in the church. Financially the results were poor, owing to the poverty of our Eskimoes. On the Young People's Day we closed with a Lantern Exhibition of scenes, new and old, in Labrador. By old and young the pictures were much enjoyed.

On February 10th we had 7 candidates as spectators at the Holy Communion. Some time afterwards the class for instruction was begun, and on Palm Sunday 6 of them were publicly examined, one was confirmed, and the other 5, baptized adults, given full Communion privileges.

Accidents.

On February 14th one of the seven spectators, an elderly man, Tobias, who had looked on with his wife at the Holy Communion service, was brought home dead and frozen. Tobias and his

step-son, Renatus, a young man, went to the Ikerasak sealing-place to fetch seal-meat. When returning, Tobias fell from the sledge dead. Renatus had six dogs hauling the sledge; yet he left his load and the dead man, and came to the station with an empty kammutik, announcing what had happened. A few hours later, when the body came, Tobias was certainly dead, as it was 27° Réaumur cold, and stormy. On the body there were no marks of injury visible, and the features had a peaceful expression. Syncope was evidently the cause of his sudden demise.

On November 4th, 1917, another of our flock was suddenly taken from this life. On that date (Sunday) some eider-ducks were seen conveniently near for shooting at various points close to the station. The temptation proved too strong for several men: among them was our young Helper, Benjamin Onalik. After the morning service he left home, taking his gun. For the afternoon service Benjamin failed to appear. At the close of the service Emily, his wife, stood on an eminence behind their house and, looking down into Konrad's Cove, saw some dogs, and a whitish object, half in and half out of the water, which proved to be the dead body of her husband. He had evidently slipped on the icy rocks and fallen into the water, probably stunning himself on the rocks in the fall. Without doubt he met his death within three minutes after leaving his dwelling. The event cast a gloom over all, and particularly his relatives. owing to the circumstances and the day. On the previous Sunday the sermon subject was Sabbath observance (Exod. xx. 8), and our older Helper, William Jararuse, Ben's father-in-law, weeping, blamed himself for not having done his duty in prohibiting him from going out with his gun.

School.

From November to Easter, school for Settler and Eskimo children was held, with sewing and knitting from January to Easter for the girls. Good attendance and results were obtained.

Empire Day and the King's birthday we remembered again in a suitable manner inside and outside our small church. Last year several dollars were given by baptised and unbaptised Eskimoes here, to provide a little tobacco for the soldiers at the front. In August also a settler family here, the store-servant John Lyall, whose wife has lost one son through the war and has another at the front in France, brought gifts for the Red Cross Society: the sum total was \$21.65 (£4 10s. 2½d.). This year we have no expectation of collecting anything, as all our people are very, very poor.

Scarcity of Provisions.

Last November (1917) the sealing was very meagre. During the winter there has been no fur, only two foxes being caught by our people on Killinek Island. All through the winter no seals

were to be had. Dire distress has prevailed in many families, and we have had to help with the Poor's Fund and Relief Work before and after Easter. Since then hunting conditions have been no better: Eskimoes and dogs have often been hungry. Many of the dogs have died through the shortage of seal-meat. At present several families are on the eider-duck breeding-grounds—Islands on the Atlantic side—doing their best to sustain life on raw eggs.

Health, and Heathen Visitors.

During the past year congregation life has gone on peacefully, and the Watch Committee has had very little to do. Our Helper, William Jararuse, with his wife and daughter, both Helpers, have rendered service to the best of their ability. On the whole good health has been prevalent, in spite of the shortage of seal-meat and other requisites for Eskimo life. We have only had three persons seriously ill: one case of gunshot wounds, hand and eye; one case of severely burnt back; and minor injuries a few. All have been treated with satisfactory results. Three unbaptised adults and families have been with us throughout the winter. One of them, Okaujak, came to us from Chimo at the end of September, 1917. Koganak is a polygamist, but Ikera, his brother, has now only one wife. All attend the services and send their children to school, but the last-named only has thought a little about baptism, at a "more convenient season." Now he has gone South again to hunt. At Aulatsivik, about 50 miles South of the station, there are three families of unbaptised Eskimoes: old Onalik, his son, and son-in-law, also two young men. They come here to trade occasionally. Onalik controls them, and is satisfied with himself and his manner of life: he is very good to his old mother, who is still alive, blind and helpless. We and our Helper, William Jararuse, have talked with him (Onalik), but he sees no reason to turn from his present mode of life. The son and the other young men sometimes attend a service in the church, but the father never. We have over 200 Innuits, with whom we are more or less in contact inside and outside our church. These, together with ourselves, we anew commend to your sympathy and prayers, with many thanks to all friends and helpers in the homelands.

S. J. TOWNLEY.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MORAVIAN MISSION HOSPITAL, OKAK, LABRADOR.

The time has come round once again to write the report of the work connected with our Mission Hospital here at Okak. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report; the work has not been disturbed by any unusual circumstances, and yet we realise that even here in this our little sphere of labour for the Master and His all-embracing kingdom we have not done what we aspired to do, or been all we resolved to be.

Seals.

Our people have been mercifully preserved from an epidemic this past year, and we are glad to report good health and sufficient food for all. The "food" question certainly touches our Eskimoes, but not to any great extent yet. If the supply of European foodstuffs into this country were to utterly fail, the Eskimoes would not be among those who would suffer most, as they are still meat-eaters, and there is still an abundance of fresh meat for those who are energetic enough to go out hunting and do not remain at home simply living on "credit" goods from the store. Sometimes we are tempted to say that a real shortage of European food would be advantageous for the Eskimo race, and would compel them to make greater use of their native foods; for all around, north and south of us, we see them suffering and the health-standard declining. Year by year it is becoming more difficult for the Eskimo mothers to rear their babies, and it has become quite a common saying now, when a child is born, "The child will probably die." Seals are indeed the very life and sustenance of our people, and keep them well and contented like nothing else. The seal hunt during the early part of the year was only fair; the ice formed too quickly, but none suffered want. This failure in the seal hunt was made up in the early spring by the great success of the deer hunt—nearly 300 were killed.

The Children.

As in previous years, the babies and many ill-nourished older children have been supplied with tins of milk. The demand has been greater this year, owing to the fact that several babies that were born were dependent upon the condensed milk for their happy, or unhappy, existence. Health, speaking generally, among this most important community has been exceptionally good, considering the severe cold we experienced and the many disadvantages in an Eskimo house where the baby is reared.

Out-patient Department.

This is by far the most active department of our work here in Okak. We have had two changes in the native nursing staff—both

nurses left us to be married. Throughout the greater part of the winter we held morning prayers in the large waiting-room, which was often crowded with eager singers and patients awaiting medical attendance. We believe these short and simple services proved a blessing and help to many.

In-patients.

For five weeks we had our one and only in-patient, a case from Hebron. Amputation of the entire middle finger, right hand, was performed, this being the only thing to be done, otherwise extensive blood-poisoning would have set in.

Anaesthetics.

Quite a number of these were given this year in and out of the theatre, with the assistance of Rosina, who gained some knowledge in this work during Dr. Barlow's stay in the hospital.

House Visiting.

House-to-house visiting is always greatly appreciated by the people, and constitutes a criterion, from the people's point of view, as to the diligence or non-diligence of the medical attendant in charge. Generally speaking, the Eskimo is one who can appreciate kindness, but of course there are exceptions.

Travelling.

Our motor-boat, we believe, had one of its busiest seasons. Early in July she made her way to the head of the bay to visit several families at their camps, where we found them busy procuring trout. Towards the end of the same month a trip was made to Nain and Hopedale, the distance covered being roughly 300 miles. On our return we used the boat for visiting the scattered families—at this time in a fever of frenzied haste to catch as much cod-fish as possible in the short time to enable them to procure the winter's supply of goods. The time has come for our people to depend more on the sale of cod-fish to supply their wants than was the case in former days when seals were plentiful. But however good and plentiful the cod-fishery may be, and however high the price per cwt., the Eskimoes do not seem able to pay their way. This is due undoubtedly to their thriftlessness and the wrong use of whatever money they may possess. In February and May a visit per dog-sledge was made to Hebron, and several patients were seen and attended to. One patient was ordered to the hospital for a slight operation, which gave great relief.

Conclusion.

The hospital during several long winter evenings was quite an educational centre for the young men and women. English classes were conducted for their benefit, and, judging from the

regular attendances, were greatly appreciated. The blackboard was in constant use, and the curriculum was varied and simple—both for our sakes and the pupils', as the language is always a drawback. The subjects included were reading, arithmetic, singing, and short and simple talks on the war. On several occasions we used the magic lantern, which will never lose interest among our Eskimoes. Friends at home would greatly help us and our young folk by sending us illustrated magazines of all descriptions.

In closing this report, may we be permitted to have a share in your prayers and sympathy during these days of terror and distraction? There is a feeling abroad that our Mission out here is "played out," and pessimism is very often the dominant note. And yet there could not be a riper time for a lasting revival among us all. Well may we all at home and abroad ask ourselves the question: "What are trying to do?"

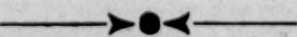
Are we not trying, against many well-nigh insuperable difficulties and influences, to continue to plant deep in the life of individuals the supernatural life of Christianity? It appears at times as if we were merely rippling the surface of every-day life, and not serving the true purpose.

"Revive Thy work, O Lord,
Thy mighty arm make bare;
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead,
And make Thy people hear.

Revive Thy work, O Lord,
Create soul-thirst for Thee;
And hungering for the bread of life
O may our spirits be!"

H. ASBOE,

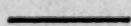
Missionary in charge of medical work at Okak Hospital.



ALASKA.



DEATHS FROM FAMINE.



FROM the *Moravian* of September 11th, 1918, we gather the following information concerning a serious famine which occurred in the Quigillingok district of Alaska in the spring of the present year:—"During the winter our natives all along this coast seemed to be well off, it being an exceptionally good year for foxes. They sold more than in other years, and got a good price for their skins, too.

Fur buyers came through from Nome, from the interior, and even from the States, buying up fur for cash. Of course, money must be spent quickly with some of the natives, without any thought of the future. And many who did have some money left in the spring could not buy anything, as the few small traders had been sold out long before, especially in the food line.

"From generations back our coast people have depended upon the spring catch of seals for the main food supply for the year. So about Easter time they began to get short of food, but expected to get seals soon. Even then some were without food. It did not alarm us, because certain families had always been in the habit of starving in the spring, before the seal season. They did not get seals as early as other years, but we put that down to the lateness of the season, always expecting that the times would get better.

"They did get a few seals now and then, but never enough to supply them all with food. However, instead of getting better the times kept getting worse, until the ice broke up. By that time a number of the people, including several of the men, had died. Many others were so weak that they could not walk, with the result that some more had to succumb. Several killed themselves or hastened their death by over-eating while in their starved condition. Twenty-two all told died in our village, and probably twenty in the neighbouring village.

"As soon as the situation grew serious we gave of our own provisions whatever we thought we could spare. And as times grew worse we measured and remeasured our food, and kept back only what we absolutely needed until such time as we could start out for Bethel. A little flour, some dried fish, two barrels of salted salmon, also a few peas and beans, rice and potatoes, and even canned meat—all these helped to modify the situation a little. To make things go farthest we often cooked the food in a big wash boiler, and dealt out the soup to each family. How very glad the people always were for this soup, even though it never was nearly enough to satisfy! That was out of the question among so many—190 living in Quigillingok itself, and often we had to help people from the neighbouring villages.

"Early one morning unexpected relief came to us from Br. Kilbuck, the Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools. He sent two dog teams with provisions—reindeer meat, flour and beans. They would have brought more if the track had not been so very bad. But how thankful we were for this help in the time of need! It surely was a Godsend for our people, and an answer to our prayers.

"Many of the people had eaten their skin boots and dead dogs, no matter how old they were. Oftentimes there was no one found to help take care of the dead, so the missionaries made most of the coffins, and even had to dig some of the graves.

"It has been a very sad experience. The effects of the famine will be felt for years to come. In a number of families the father

died, leaving so many without a provider, which is a serious problem among the Eskimoes. Some of the houses were torn down to furnish firewood (when no one could get wood from a distance), and will not be easily replaced. All but two dogs in the whole village starved to death, leaving the people without any means of conveyance in the winter. Nor had they seal skins to make their boots out of, nor seal oil for the coming winter. Morally, too, many have gone backward. But we must remember that it was starvation that drove them to stealing, lying, and selfishness.

"A hard year is before us (this was written at the end of last June.—Editor 'P. A.'), and we ask our friends to pray for us and to pray with us for our people."

F. DREBERT,
Missionary in Charge.

MORE CHEERFUL NEWS.

The semi-annual Reports from Quinhagak and Bethel, Alaska, tell the same story of the unusual severity of the last winter, and also of a serious shortage in animal food-stuffs caused by the absence of game as that told in the Report from Quigilingok. The actual distress suffered by the people, however, was not as great, and the only cases of actual starvation reported were among the dogs. This is serious enough, as the dog in Alaska is not a pet, but a very necessary part of the equipment of the traveller and hunter, and much of the native's food supply must be obtained by these means.

Lack of space only prevents us from printing in full the three Reports to hand. The Quinhagak School Report contains so many touches of genuine human interest, however, that we will quote from it as freely as possible.

Quinhagak.

In reporting from this station, the Brn. A. Stecker and A. B. Scheel speak of this last half-year as being filled with new and strange experiences. "Whoever knew Alaska," they write, "would hardly think that any scarcity of food could arise here."

Game and fish are usually so plentiful that quite naturally the natives depend upon these sources for their living. In some instances the sources of supply failed entirely, and in others migrating fish and birds were unusually late in their arrival, and when they did arrive were much fewer in number than ever before.

These conditions were due in part at least to the unusual winter weather. Not only was it severely cold, but there was very little snow until after the middle of February. The result was that ground and water froze to unusual depths, killing many of the small animals. Musk-rat hunting, usually a profitable

business, thus became worthless. Foxes, however, were plentiful, and, as their pelts are valuable, the natives were able to obtain some money with which to buy provisions.

The missionaries saw some good results of their work in the fact that the men refrained from spending what they had earned upon the native plays, worthless and degrading customs of heathendom, which even in good times have led to improvidence and consequent distress.

One of the serious problems of the present situation is the lack of seal oil, as seal hunting this last spring was practically a failure. It is customary to hold a farewell service in connection with the services at Easter time, as usually by that time the ice on the river and bay have broken up, and all the able-bodied men start out, and are gone for some time, on the annual seal hunt. This year the farewell service was held as usual on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, but the men remained at home. From time to time a few set out, but they returned after finding nothing but solid ice—no open water where they might find the seals. Finally, suddenly and unexpectedly, the ice broke up, and a few seals were obtained.

The finding of gold in the neighbourhood of Good News Bay has brought its problems to our mission-station, as many white men passed through during the winter and spring months. Thus both difficulties and opportunities are presented to the missionary. Here, as everywhere the world over, "it is remarkable," writes Br. Stecker, "through what hardships these men go, travelling in all kinds of weather, with heavy loads, carrying provisions and dog food with them for hundreds of miles, suffering, at times, with frozen feet, from the bites of dogs, often cut and bruised from falls—all for the lure of gold.

"In and through all these changed conditions, one unchangeable fortress remained for us to which we always could go for help and comfort, this was and is the Love and the Word of our God. The Word has been preached and proclaimed, and we know that our people trust God. Our native helper, Louis, has been of the greatest assistance to us. He is strong in his faith, and has told the people here and in other villages that our God has many ways to help of which we do not know. He himself had a good experience that God gives the *daily* bread. After Easter, when only some ptarmigans could be found, he was out daily and got two each day—no more, except on Saturday, when he was able to secure four. Give us *this day* our daily bread.

"We have had our regular meetings, three times on Sunday, including Sunday-school, and three times during the week. All the whites here on Sunday have attended the Sunday evening meetings, and many have expressed their gratitude for what they have heard. This meeting is in English, while the others are in 'Native.'

"We have had a blessed Easter. Holy Communion has been administered, and a number of children have been baptised.

"Eek and neighbouring villages have been visited, and Br. Kilbuck on his trip to Togiak spoke to the people there and at Good News Bay.

"Sr. Scheel attended to the sick, and we had more sickness this year than usual; but, thank God, all have recovered. One old man departed, ripe in years, work, and sorrow, but not afraid, knowing of the heavenly mansion above. . . . Spring has brought much temporal work again. The church had to be moved, as the river is cutting the land again, and it is only a question of time when some of the houses will also have to be moved again.

"The consequences of the war are now felt more and more in the high prices for all imported goods, and we pray that peace may soon come.

"Asking all our friends to pray for us and our work, We are, fraternally yours, A. STECKER; A. B. SCHEEL."

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOOL REPORT OF QUINHAGAK.

Introduction.

"Early on the morning of July 4th, 1917, Br. and Sr. Scheel arrived at Quinhagak on the launch *Moravian*, and were given a hearty reception by Br. Stecker and daughter, and a large number of natives. In the afternoon we had a meeting in the church, to which all the natives in the village came, when they were reminded why July 4th was a national holiday.

"During the two following months we became quite well acquainted with the people, especially the children, and were very favourably impressed with the advanced state of civilisation these children are in compared with those of other villages where there are no schools.

"School opened on Tuesday, September 4th, and in spite of all weather conditions was held regularly throughout the term, with the exception of one stormy afternoon. The attendance was very good throughout. The children would brave the storms; and only sickness, or the most necessary labour of securing wood, could prevent the bigger ones from attending school.

"A few children from the deer camps and neighbouring villages were able to attend for several months, finding homes with us and elsewhere in the village.

"With all the cold weather, it was necessary to keep a good fire going, and our coal was exhausted six or seven weeks before school closed.

General Work.

"Throughout the entire term we had one half-hour for opening exercises, consisting largely of singing, both morning and afternoon, and during the winter months we had one hour of singing every Wednesday evening. After the singing, on Wednesday evenings, all seats were put to one side, and another hour

was spent in playing games. The children are all very fond of singing, and it is needless to say that they enjoy themselves immensely.

"The usual branches were taught, but special attention was given to the English language, arithmetic, and sanitation. Oftentimes when the older ones were asked to write a letter, you would see them searching diligently in a Reader for some sentences to write. . . . They do not seem to grasp the object in letter-writing, and, although help was given them and explanations made, their letters were very stiff and real 'manufactured' articles.

"Arithmetic is a bugbear to many.

"It was most interesting to teach the little ones in the Kindergarten division, as they learn English, finger plays, games, and songs very readily.

"Drawing and painting are enjoyed by all, and most of them did very creditable work. At the close of the school term all were given their drawings, which now decorate many of the homes.

"On Christmas and Washington's birthday, we had very nice programmes, enjoyed immensely by all the visitors present.

"Lessons in sanitation and hygiene were given, and great stress was laid upon the importance of cleanliness, the care of the body, the necessity of good ventilation in the homes, and the benefit of deep breathing. They were taught the proper care of wounds, and so much stress was laid upon the matter of spreading disease germs that often, when the class was told to take the Primers of sanitation, we could hear some of the bigger boys whisper '*disease germs!*'

Sewing.

"The youngest children hemmed towels and wash-cloths, and also made many handkerchiefs, which all were badly in need of. About twenty-five dresses and aprons were made by the older scholars, who also made several outfits for infants from flannelette furnished by the Government, as none of the mothers prepare for the arrival of little ones. Little booties, stockings, and jackets were knitted and crocheted, mittens were made out of old coats, and patches were cut and sewed for quilts.

Cooking.

"We did not have a regular cooking class, but, before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the bigger girls baked several hundred cookies and biscuits. These the natives relished very much on holidays. The girls who stayed at the homes of the missionaries had greater opportunities along this line, and many did excellent work.

Washing.

"Every Saturday the wash-tubs were brought into service, and a good bath was the order of the day. The mothers came

and washed the smaller children and their clothes. The soap sent by the Government was put to good use, and it certainly helps to make it a greater inducement for them to wash than if they had to buy it.

"The older children, however, have to be watched, as some of them think a bath not always necessary."

Village Work.

Under this head Br. Scheel relates some interesting incidents which give us some idea of the difficulties and discouragements which those in mission and school work have to face. "Every day," he says, "brings with it its own cares, and during the entire year there has been much sickness. The medicines sent us by the Government have been put to good use, and relieved much suffering. . . . The natives seem to have great faith in medicines, but they do not realize the importance of cleanliness in the treatment of ulcers, wounds, or boils. We have one little boy, unable to walk, who is tuberculous, with large open wounds which need attention; but every day he would have the surgical dressing removed and a filthy piece of squirrel-skin fastened over the wound. This and other similar instances in direct opposition to our instructions often brought on moments of discouragement. . .

"We are very thankful that our food supply was not entirely exhausted, or many would have been in narrow straits, as their own supply gave out many weeks ago, and there was no food obtainable at any store. . . .

"The ships *Bender Bros.* and *Ruby* have arrived with exceptionally large cargoes, and naturally the food situation is relieved in all the surrounding villages.

"We hope and trust that some substitute will be found to take the place of seal oil for food, and furs for parkies, both of which are a necessity to the comfort and welfare of the natives.

"In conclusion, looking back over the past year, with all its sicknesses, trials, and worries, we cannot say that it was an easy one for all concerned, but we are much interested in our work and the welfare of the natives, and we hope for greater ability to do much more.

"We all have much to be thankful for, and now, with summer here, we look forward with great hopes to a big fish run, so that all may have sufficient for the coming year."

ARTHUR AND ESTHER SCHEEL.

Bethel, January 1st, 1918, to May 31st, 1918.

Climatic Conditions.

It is spring according to the calendar, but grim winter has been holding fast most desperately. We have heard of your cold waves and snow-storms in the States, but by this time you are surely enjoying the balmy days of a sunshiny May month. Here

no leaf has thus far dared to burst its bud, no shoot of grass to break through the frosty ground. Even our garden plants under cover of glass are not over enthusiastic about growing. They are tiny, puny, and blue. But, in spite of vegetation's slowness, the birds have come—true, by over a week later than in other years, but the geese, the ducks, the robins, the red-pole are here, relieving the dullness and monotony of a dull spring.

The winter has been cold, and, though the temperature did not drop abnormally low, it did range at -30 deg. Fahr. for several weeks at a time. Then it would moderate to about -15 deg. Fahr. for a few days, and then drop again. And with all this cold there was no snow until March. The tundra was bare and brown and cold. Travelling was rough and heavy. But March and April were the months of snows and blows. It blew and blew from every point of the compass. The miners here at Bethel, and others coming from other camps *en route* for the Good News Bay mining district, were "stalled" for a week at a time. The delay, added to the great scarcity of dog food, must have been a most disagreeable experience. About forty newcomers have stampeded to the Good News Bay country. The original find there really does not warrant a very great influx of men, but it is believed that new "strikes" will be made. A large section in that district has never been thoroughly prospected.

In spite of the cold we have been doing our winter's travelling. The weather in early winter, though cold, was clear and steady. We did not mind the cold greatly—in fact, we rather enjoyed it. Fortunately we had laid up a good supply of firewood, so there was no worry about the comfort of folks at home.

The Reindeer Herders' Convention was the first goal of our travelling. While we were debating whether or not it might be too cold to leave early the next morning, who should come along? In the face of a bitterly cold, driving wind, Br. and Sr. Scheel had come all the way from Eek in one day! That is a distance of nearly, or about, sixty miles. The brethren's boasted powers of endurance have been equalled, if not excelled, by that feat! We were glad of their visit, and believe that they too enjoyed being here.

Evangelistic Work.

In the course of the winter the villages up river and on the tundra were visited, and Communion was celebrated with our membership at the various villages. At Akiak the hospital force communed with us. The Government hospital at that station was completed in the course of the winter. Under the direction of the genial, faithful, and able Dr. Lamb it has already proved itself a boon and a blessing to many.

As mentioned in our last report, there seems to be the movement of a new spiritual life among the tundra people. The faith in the superstitions that have enslaved them for so long

seems to be weakening. They are eager to hear more of the God Who loves and would save all. We have longed for the time when we might station an intelligent native Helper among them. Br. Robert Egsack has also been urging this move. Last winter Br. Neck was interviewed relative to his willingness once more to be the pioneer in a new field. The faithful old servant of the Lord was willing to go for his people's sake. We are sure that, relying on the divine guiding spirit, he will again accomplish great good among his fellow-people. A cabin will be built there for him at the central tundra village. From there he will be able to reach out to spread the gospel and enlighten the people in God's Revelation and Love to man.

Manual Training School.

The matter of the Manual Training School to which we made reference in our last report has not been forgotten. All the workers in the field being equally zealous for the cause, the matter has been presented to all of our own race with whom we have come into contact. Almost unanimous has been the support and encouragement from them. Not only have they spoken in support of the school, but they have pledged themselves to give liberally of their means. Cash and pledges up to date have reached the encouraging sum of \$3,525.00 (£734 7s. 6d.). And looking to the future they have given us reason to hope that such an institution would never be a burden on the Church, but would receive all necessary support from the country and its people. We do believe that such a school, sincerely and intelligently conducted, and adapted to the needs of this section, will indeed make its own way in the respect and loyalty of local patrons and would never need to suffer for lack of funds. This may seem too optimistic, but it is a fact of experience that the men of this country give royally when the object meets with their approval, and they are very loyal to things Alaskan. Of course, in order to give they must have. Our dreams in a measure still depend on the richness and possibilities of the Good News Bay mining district. Even those who do not have much are eager to help. As one man put it, even before being asked whether he would or could aid financially, "I am not a claim owner, but earn my money by hard work; but for a cause like that I am willing to give a hundred dollars." There would, however, not be enough men about here to make up the necessary sum, if some of the claim owners were not willing to give liberally of their rich discoveries. The Church at home must not think that we will strike out blindly. We know that, first, we need to have the means in hand properly to commence, and then means within certain reach with which to complete the first beginnings. We are trying to move forward cautiously enthusiastic.

Having this institution in mind, with its need of a gardener and a man for general work about such an institution, we have transferred Br. Sam Stecker from Quigillingok, so that he might

during this season acquaint himself with the oddities of gardening in this clime and, when a site for the proposed institution is finally determined, begin preparing for the garden there. Through the garden a large portion of the rations can be obtained, if properly undertaken and on a commensurate scale.

The old mission buildings at Ogavik have of late years been used but little. The chapel is used regularly by the few people remaining there, and the missionary puts up in the rooms which had been the dwelling of the faithful workers who are no longer in Alaska, and some of whom have been called home to the Master. The villagers suggested that they move the chapel to a site nearer their homes, and, as the missionary can quite comfortably spend his time when on visits in their homes, it was decided that the old buildings be taken down entirely, hauled to the bank, and in summer rafted to some other point where use can be made of them. They will probably be floated to the new school site.

Economic Conditions.

Though the winter has been long and severe, the natives about here, except the very indolent ones, did not lack anything. We do sympathise with our fellow-workers on the West Coast, where the natives have been starving. When you read their report, you can imagine how they themselves must have suffered in beholding the misery about them. And they had nothing on hand or within reach with which to help. The only provisions were their own and Mr. Christiansen, the trader's, private provisions. Just when it seemed that they had helped to the very utmost, relief teams came which Br. Kilbuck as Government official had dispatched from here. Since the return of those teams we have not heard, but there is reason to believe that the worst stress was over. Since then, the birds have come and there has been some good weather for seal hunting. This experience again emphasises the fact that our work is only beginning. We must also save the outer man, that the inner man may have a proper home in which to dwell.

Asking your continued remembrance of your and our work and of us your fellow-workers, we are,


Sincerely,

THE MISSIONARIES.



WEST INDIES (Eastern Province).

THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE CHURCH AT EMMAUS, ST. JAN, VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE U.S.A.

N October 9th, 1916, "the Great Gale" wiped out the station Emmaus, St. Jan, destroying church, parsonage and school-house. On September 3rd, 1918, a large company gathered in the rebuilt parsonage, in order to praise God for His mercies, and to lay the corner-stone of the fourth church building, which was to be erected on the old foundations. The service was conducted by Bishop Greider, who recently returned from his furlough in the United States. At six o'clock that morning Bishop Greider, Br. A. B. Romig, and Mr. Joseph, the builder, were in a motor launch on their way from St. Thomas to Emmaus. It was an idyllic morning for a trip in a motor launch, if not for sailing. The sea was as calm as a mill pond, and when the launch reached the passages near Dog Island and around Ram's Head—places as famous in local story as Scilla and Charybdis of old—the waters were so calm that a canoe could have crossed them in safety and ease. Alas, however, for sailing boats! The launch passed many, coming and going, "as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean." But this calm was all in favour of our travellers, and enabled them to make their trip in three and a half hours, instead of four and a half, as wind and current often demand. They called at a village on their way, and took on board a number of people who had been prevented by the calm from getting to Emmaus.

Precisely at 12 the service began with an invocation by Bishop Greider. Addresses were made (1) by Bishop Greider, who spoke of Christ, the true Corner-stone, (2) by Br. Romig, who presented a financial report of gifts made and expenses paid to date, and urged the need of continued interest and liberality, (3) by Br. Penn, who first read an historical sketch of the storm, with special reference to the loss of the church, and then referred in detail to the various papers, &c., which were to be placed in the corner-stone. There was a programme of the exercises of the

day; his own historical sketch; an official document on the day's proceedings, from the P.E.C., or Governing Board; the Warden's statement of receipts and payments to date; one copy each of the *Periodical Accounts* for March and June, 1917, which contain descriptions of the hurricane and of the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States; copies of the issues of the local papers, *Mail Notes* and *Bulletin* for the 31st of August; and a small tin-box containing specimens (1) of the coinage legally in use at the present time, both Danish, West Indian, and United States, (2) of D. W. India coins minted before 1905, among them some two-skilling pieces of 1847 and 1848. After these exercises the congregation, led by the choir and ministers, marched over to the foundations of the church, singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and there the corner-stone was laid by Bishop Greider, assisted by Br. Penn, the pastor, according to the ritual for the occasion given in the hymnal of the Church in America. The service closed with the hymn "O God, our help in ages past." Thus, two years after the destruction of the church, the congregation has had the joy of seeing the first steps taken towards the restoration of that building.

I would again make public our thanks to all friends who have helped in raising a Rebuilding Fund. Such thanks are specially due to the Danish Rigsdag for its gift of £1,000, and to the members of our Church in America, who contributed about £575 for this cause. There were other gifts for this purpose, as well as for the aid of the Danish West Indies in general after the hurricane, but a detailed list of the gifts specifically for the new church will be given, D.V., at the time of the dedication. We hope to dedicate the building within a year, and to do so without debt. But to do this will require great care in these times of high prices for material and workmanship. These are about double of what they used to be before the war. There is still need for aid. Does any reader wish to present the congregation with a pulpit or lectern Bible; does anyone wish to aid the organ fund, or the general account? Any gift will be acceptable. But for the gifts that have already been made, and for blessing upon the work that has been done, we give Thee thanks, O Lord.

A. B. ROMIG.

St. Jan,

September 3rd, 1918.



MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A Letter from Capt. Jackson.

*S.S. Harmony, Killinek, Labrador,
September 19th, 1918.*

WE arrived in New York on January 1st, with the thermometer somewhere in the region of 14 degrees below zero, Fahr., and, with the ship one mass of ice alow and aloft, she looked far more like the Arctic regions than ever I have seen her on the Labrador Coast.

We discharged our cargo at 5th Street, East River, and while there we made the acquaintance of Bishop Leibert, the minister at the Lexington Avenue, New York, Moravian church, and were kindly received by members of his congregation. Bishop Leibert showed us the site of the first Moravian church in America—it is now a Jewish synagogue. The weather in New York continued extremely cold, and coal was hard to get, for all canals and rivers were frozen over and barges rendered useless for transportation, many being sunk by the ice drifting down the rivers. We were unable to get coal to proceed on our voyage; and days passed, with the same result, making it a very anxious time for those concerned with the finances of the ship.

The Hudson River had been frozen over since the end of December, nearly as far down as New York; hence Albany, Hastings, and Yonkers were quite blocked up. A large sugar factory at Yonkers, employing something like one thousand people, was quite out of commission, and, besides, all ship and barge traffic was stopped, the ice being from one to two feet thick. A large vessel was frozen in at Hastings or Albany, and had been there for weeks. Such was the state of things when the head of the sugar factory and the Mayor of Yonkers asked if the *Harmony* could clear a track to Yonkers.

It was a big task to put on the old vessel, and we were very doubtful of success. After viewing the ice, we decided to do our best, the Government making it easy for us to get coal. We then proceeded for the ice, and commenced eight very strenuous days for ship and crew.

Each night we anchored near the firm ice, and each morning we would find ourselves frozen fast in newly-formed ice. Then would commence a struggle to get the ship loose and free the newly-formed ice from the old pack. We cleared the Hudson as far as Hastings, and, having completed our work to the satisfaction of the Yonkers people, we proceeded to the Erie Basin,

where the ship got frozen solid. The following day we got clear; so we proceeded to Bayway, in the Kill van Kull, there to load some cargo—i.e., puncheon packs, for Barbados. This was only a part cargo, and, nothing else offering, we were sent to a berth in the Goanus Creek, and moored between other ships just outside the Erie Basin.

We had then made arrangements to buy some coal for shipment to Barbados, and were about to proceed again to load the coal at anchor in the bay, when a terrific storm came on, which tore away our mooring bollards and did other damage to the ship. Also a very large and heavy sand barge broke away from her moorings and came into collision with the *Harmony*, doing very considerable damage to the stern. Again we had to go into the Erie Basin for repairs, which took fourteen days to complete.

While in the Erie Basin we had the pleasure to meet the Revs. Paul M. Greider, E. S. Hagen, and Frederick R. Nitzschke, ministers from the Moravian congregations on Staten Island, N.Y. They were very kind and seemed anxious to help us, also proposing to fix an electric plant for lighting the *Harmony*. I can only say how much we appreciate this. We would have liked to have visited their congregations, but our time was drawing to a close. Soon after this we hauled out of the Erie Basin and anchored in the Bay, taking in the coal, and leaving New York a few days later. We had been in New York about two months and a-half, and although we had many trials there we made many new friends, and have carried away with us pleasant memories.

Our voyage from New York to Barbados was fine and pleasant, and a great change from our Northern ones. We could really enjoy the fine warm weather and the smooth seas of the tropics. It was a treat not to be forgotten. Some of our Labrador brethren on board had never seen flying fish, and were delighted with them.

We arrived at Barbados on or about the 4th of April, and were met by members of the congregations there, Revs. Oehler, Haynes, Pilgrim, Mr. Barrow, and others, who were warm in their welcome, and we had numerous invitations. We paid visits to all the congregations, and they were visits never to be forgotten. After the service at Roebuck Street, Bridgetown, we were overwhelmed with hand-shaking—such a welcome is hard to express in words—and the same kind welcome we received at Sharon, Mount Tabor, Clifton Hill, and Gracehill. It did us good to be among so many friends. The work being done there is, in our opinion, beyond praise. On our visit to Mount Tabor we went into the day-schools. The schoolmaster, Mr. Crichelow, got the boys to sing for us. This they did with very great goodwill, and the Girls' School, under the care of Miss Ida Pilgrim, gave us an equally good reception—such smiles and smiles. I have never seen anything anywhere else to match it! The children got a holiday, I am pleased to say, in our honour.

The Superintendent, Mr. Oehler, was most kind, and entertained us at his house at Sharon. There we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Smythe. Mr. Smythe is a member of the London Association Committee, and he and Mrs. Smythe had often been at the yearly meetings held in the London Docks on board the *Harmony*. It was a great pleasure to again meet them on the ship.

The ship needed some repairs which were long overdue owing to the war. Mr. Kinch, our business agent, was very kind and helpful, and put us in the hands of some good ship repairers; but having so many workers on board made it very difficult to entertain friends as we would have liked to do. Still, many friends paid us visits from time to time, and we did our best.

We paid visits to many lovely spots on the island, and greatly enjoyed our stay in lovely Barbados.

After loading a full cargo of molasses—some of it for our own stations in Labrador—we weighed anchor for St. John's, Newfoundland, having a good send-off from the Rev. Haynes and family. Our journey to St. John's was fine the whole way. It took us sixteen days to make the passage.

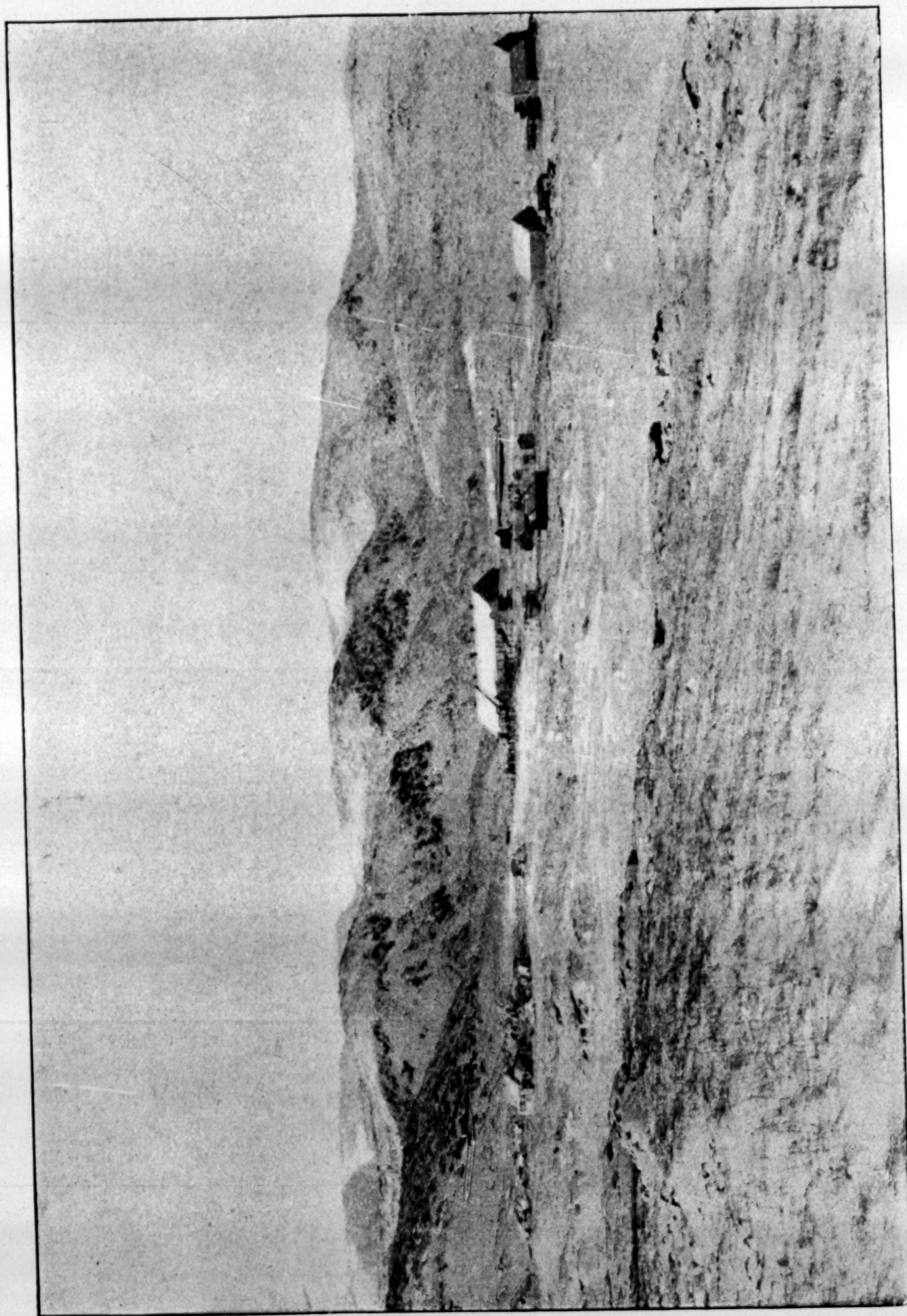
On arrival at St. John's and on discharging our cargo we found we were rather early for our usual Labrador voyages; so we dry-docked the ship and made some very necessary repairs, and then made two voyages to Sydney, Nova Scotia, for coal for the Newfoundland Government, there being a shortage of coal at that port. This was far from nice, as we had thick fog during most of our journeys, and a coal fog at both ends. After finishing the Sydney voyages, we loaded up for Labrador, and sailed on the 3rd of July. We were early on the coast and met a quantity of ice, though not sufficient to interfere much with our work. The icebergs this year are very numerous, and these make navigation very precarious during fog or at night.

We found all the brethren well and pleased to see us. We paid a visit to all the stations as far as Saeglek, and then came direct to St. John's. Then, thinking that there was time to do our own work as well, we made another voyage to Sydney for coal, partly for our own use, and partly for the Government. We are now on our second Labrador voyage, and I am sorry to report a very poor catch of fish. This will be bad for our people, as prices of provisions are very high. We have been lying in Killinek five days, and during the whole time it has scarcely stopped raining, and yesterday we had our first snow. The old ship has been working hard this year, but does not seem much the worse for it. Only her crew are looking longingly to the eastward, where lies England and home!

Yours very sincerely,

J. C. JACKSON.





MISSION STATION HERON, LABRADOR.